

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3, 5-18, 22-26 and 28-30 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 22 are amended herein. No new claims have been added.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-18, 22-26, and 28-30 under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,226,510 (“Boling”) in view of U.S. Patent 5,625,668 (“Loomis”). Applicants have amended claims 1 and 22 and respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 22 and all claims depending therefrom, including claims 3, 5-18, 23-26 and 28-30, are patentable over the art of record for the following reasons.

The art of record fails to teach or suggest a base station that transmits a notification message to a plurality of contacts **and** to an emergency service as recited in claims 1 and 22. Specifically, independent claim 1 is a method claim reciting “receiving a location signal at a base station... providing to each of the plurality of contacts and to an emergency service, from the base station...” Independent claim 22 is a system claim reciting “a signal receiver at a base station... a signal transmitter at the base station that provides to each of the plurality of contacts and to an emergency service...” Such features are neither taught nor suggested by the art of record.

Boling discloses a hand-held wireless personal communication and security apparatus (“phone/pager”) 10 that includes an emergency response button 20 (Boling at col. 3, ll. 37-54). When the button is pressed, the phone/pager automatically contacts a private emergency response service (id. at col. 3, l.55 - col. 4, l.1). Boling further discloses that the phone/pager then sends a second communication to a public emergency response service (id. At col. 2, ll. 58-60). The Boling reference fails to teach **a base station** as recited in claims 1 and 22.

Loomis discloses a cellular telephone location system that generates location information that can be sent back to the cellular phone user or to any third party inquirer (Loomis at col. 1, ll. 29-45). In this manner, Loomis allows a third party to call a service that will provide the whereabouts of a cellular phone user. Loomis, like Boling, fails to teach **a base station** as recited in claims 1 and 22.

In contrast to the combined teachings of Boling and Loomis, the base station of the present invention, as recited in claims 1 and 22, **receives** a location signal and **transmits** a notification message to **both** a plurality of contacts and to an emergency service.

Specifically, the combined teachings of Boling and Loomis do not teach or suggest “receiving a location signal at a base station... providing to each of the plurality of contacts and to an emergency service, from the base station...” or “a signal receiver at a base station... a signal transmitter at the base station that provides to each of the plurality of contacts and to an emergency service...” as recited in claims 1 and 22.

One of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine Loomis and Boling because of the explicit teachings in Boling. Boling states “the primary benefits of limiting use of the phone/pager 10 to contacting emergency response services is the resulting simplicity of operation.” (Boling, col. 4, ll. 56-58) Loomis, however, is directed to a regular telecommunication system that can also provide “non emergency” functions. (Loomis, col. 3, ll. 55-56). Consequently, one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that to combine Loomis and Boling would frustrate the explicit teachings of Boling. However, even if combined, Loomis and Boling fail to teach all the features of claims 1 and 22 as stated above.

The claimed present invention has numerous advantages over the combined teachings of Boling and Loomis. By using the **base station** to transmit a notification message to **both** the contacts and to the emergency service, the present invention provides a faster, more reliable and complete emergency locator system. Speed allows a quicker response time to those helping the distressed; reliability ensures that the emergency system will work when needed; and completeness provides notification to all the concerned parties.

The Examiner also rejected claims 7-12 under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bolings and Loomis in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,295,346 (“Markowitz”). Claims 7-12 are dependent upon patentable claim 1 and therefore are patentable for at least the reasons stated above.

The Examiner also rejected claim 17 under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bolings and Loomis and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,340,928 (“McCurdy”). Claim 17, being dependent upon patentable claim 1, is therefore patentable for at least the reasons stated above.

The Examiner also rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bolings and Loomis and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,805,670 (“Pons”). Claim 18, being dependent upon patentable claim 1, is therefore patentable for at least the reasons stated above.

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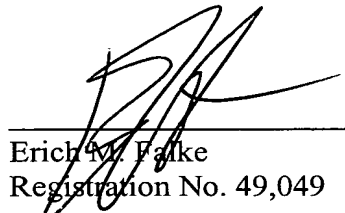
The Examiner also rejected claims 24 and 26 under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bolings and Loomis and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,442,241 ("Tsumpes"). Claims 24 and 26, being dependent upon patentable claim 22, are therefore patentable for at least the reasons stated above.

CONCLUSION

For all the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims patentably distinguish over the teachings of the cited references.. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance for claims 1, 3, 5-18, 22-26 and 28-30 is respectfully requested. In the event, however, that the Examiner believes that the application is not allowable for any reason, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney to discuss resolution of any remaining issues.

Date:

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